Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

96

WEEKLY STATION REPORTS

OF THE OFFICE OF

DRY LAND AGRICULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

NOV 1 1919

REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 1, 1919.

Amarillo:

The past week has been rather cool and we have had two frosts. The first frost of the season came on the night of the 27th; it was a very light one, the temperature only falling to 32 degrees. There was a heavier one this morning (November 1), the temperature this time falling to 25 degrees.

The ground has been prepared for winter wheat. The Cereal Office is seeding wheat at present, and the D.L.A. wheat will probably be planted the first of next week.

Maximum temperature for the week, 75; minimum, 25; average hourly wind velocity, 7.5 mi. per hour; precipitation, .06.

Mr. E. F. Chilcott visited the Station on the 30th inst.

Big Spring:

Most of the week has been cloudy and wet. Early Tuesday morning a high wind came up from the north, accompanioned by a hard rain. Late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning we had more rain. It is clear this morning (Saturday) but it is hard to say how long it will remain so. This wet weather keeps us from doing much field work, though we managed to get some of the cotton picked between showers.

The winter wheat planted on October 24 is coming up nicely.

Precipitation for the month of October totals 6.31 inches. In September we had more rain than received altogether for the year 1918, and within 3.30 inches of the total for both 1917 and 1918. These excellent rains are doing wonders for the range in this section. Pastures that looked like the grass had all died out a year ago are getting well sodded again, and the stockmen are looking forward to stocking the ranges again. The total precipitation for 1919 to date is 33.01 inches, being the highest rainfall for any one year recorded in this section.

Maximum temperature for the week, 84; minimum, 36; wind velocity, 4.1 miles per hour; precipitation, 2.47 inches.

Colby:

The past two weeks have been quite cool with the temperature falling below freezing nearly every night. Considerable foggy weather has been received, but no beneficial amount of precipitation occurred.

Fall plowing and subsoiling on the rotations was completed. Husking of corn was finished, and the final round of soil sampling is well under way.

Maximum temperature, 72; minimum, 15; precipitation, Trace.

Dalhart:

We have all of our harvesting finished at last. Harvesting of the experimental plats was completed some days ago. All last week and a part of this was devoted to heading milo on the General Field. About all the heads in the stack yard are ready to thresh. There are a few plats that were bound before the destructive storm came, and these will have to be hauled in and headed before threshing. All others were headed in the field and are now ready to go to the machine. If conditions remain favorable, we expect to begin our threshing this next week.

Several frosts and two good hard freezes have occurred to date. Everything has taken on a winter "coat" now, and things look rather lonesome. Some of our heavy blooming flower shrubs were hardy enough to withstand all the freezes and are still in bloom. The hardiest of these are the Salvia greggii and the Butterfly bush. The foliage is still green and some flowers are as bright as ever.

Mr. E. F. Chilcott arrived in Dalhart on the night train of October 30, and visited the Station that night and until noon of the 31st.

Garden City:

The weather during the past week has been very favorable for all kinds of farm work. Although the temperature got down to 21 degrees above zero on two different nights, it warmed up in good shape during the day.

This week has been spent in husking corn on the plats and in putting up the fourth cutting of alfalfa. A total of 6.78 tons of hay per acre for the season was obtained from the irrigated alfalfa field. This yield is above that of any other yield reported from this section of the country.

Maximum temperature for the week, 76 degrees; minimum, 21 degrees; average wind velocity, 8' anemometer, 11.9 mi. per hour; 2' anemometer, 9.8 mi. per hour.

Huntley:

The character of the weather during the past week has not been conducive to field work. An abundance of snow accompanied by high winds and low temperatures has kept all hands indoors. As the ground is not frozen the chances are good that much of this moisture will enter the soil and insure a good start of winter wheat, which on most fields is very uneven as to stand.

Temperatures for the week: Maximum, 80; minimum, 10 below zero; precipitation, 1.10 inches.

Lawton:

October closed with a total precipitation of 13.71 inches. In 1908 the October precipitation amounted to 14.88 inches. This is the only time the present record has been exceeded in any one month since 1870.

A cold wind is blowing from the north today (November 1) and there is some prospect of clear drying weather. All crops that are in the shock are in very bad shape, and but little more bad weather will cause a heavy loss of grain. The present indications are that the forage will be almost worthless.

Wheat which was seeded on the 20th inst., resulted in a good stand on the 28th.

As soon as the weather will permit cotton picking, country schools throughout the county will be closed for a period of one to three weeks on account of the scarcity of labor and the urgent necessity of saving as much of the crop as possible.

Mandan:

The field work of the Station had practically ended before the snowfall of the 24th inst., leaving merely a few details, such as heeling in of trees, digging seedling fruits, preparing seed-beds for spring. These jobs have now been done.

The data for the year's work being mostly completed, it is being shaped up and tabulated as quickly as possible.

On the night of the 28th inst., the thermometer dropped rapidly, reaching 14 degrees below zero, and remained very low for the two following days. This exceptional temperature has not materially affected the ground, which, being well covered with snow, is not yet frozen. It is hoped that the .57 inch of moisture in the form of snow, which has fallen in the latter half of the month, will shortly melt and be absorbed, giving us at least a little much needed water in the ground.

Sheridan:

The past week has been a rather cool one, with a minimum temperature of zero, and every night a good deal lower than freezing. The highest maximum temperature reached during the week was 40. Each morning the ground was frozen, but we have managed to plow during part of the afternoon, and as a result have finished all stubble plowing for the fall. We are starting today on about 12 acres of sod plowing which we expect to get finished during November:

The 1.80 inches of precipitation we have had during the month of October has wet the ground down about 10 inches, and made plowing good. There has been an exceptionally small amount of fall plowing done in this section to date, but if we have good weather this month considerable will be done. There is about a normal acreage of winter wheat seeded here this fall on summer tillage and stubble land, the greater portion being the latter. If the month of November happens to be a bad one for fall plowing, I think it is safe to say that the acreage of spring grains(small) will be less than normal, or, it will be poorly seeded; probably stubbled in instead of the land being plowed,

Sheridan, continued:

Pastures, generally, are very short in this section, and it would not be surprising if there should be considerable loss before spring, as forage and concentrated feeds are rather scarce, especially on dry farms. However, there is several times more oil cake, cotton cake, and Alfalmo being shipped in this fall than ever before. The big stockmen, and many of the small ones, are loading up on it. The County Agent is doing most of the buying for them.

Woodward:

Threshing continues to hold first attention over all other work. Cloudy, damp weather greatly interferred this past week. Little precipitation fell, but on five days either a small rainfall was reported, or a trace. However, all the milo plats on the Cereal Project were brought in and threshed. Indoor work during the damp weather consisted of flailing out cowpeas, and in farming, and grading grain. Rye sowed last week has emerged for a good stand, and the wheat is just coming through the ground.

Mr. E. F. Chilcott made a business trip to Amarillo during the week.

Maximum temperature for the week, 76; (on the 31st); minimum, 27, (on both the 28th and 29th) - first hard killing frost of the season. Precipitation, .10 inches.

Note:

This issue of the News Letter will be the last issue of the season.